## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-34 and add claims 35 and 36 as follows:

(Amended) A [P] preform allowing for the obtainment, after deformation, [customized] a personalized orthodontic of [orthopedic dentofacial appliance] dentofacial orthopedic apparatus characterized [in that it has the general form] by a three-dimensional hollow body [and in that] which has a form that allows [its] the preform's expansion inside a mold reproducing the morphology of the patient.

- 2. (Amended) The [P]preform according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein [is] has a hollow tubular or approximately tubular shape.
- 3. (Amended) The [P]preform according to [any of claims 1 through 2] claim 1, characterized [in that is has a] by a hollow, tubular or approximately tubular shape[,] and is cut [out at the top front] on the upper anterior part to form an opening 8.
- 4. (Amended) The [P]preform according to [any of claims 1 through 3] claim 1, characterized by the fact [in] that it is [made of a plastic material of the thermoplastic or thermosetting type deformable by] manufactured in thermoplastic or thermosetting plastic material which is deformable through expansion.
- 5. (Amended) The [P]preform according to claim 4, characterized by the fact [in] that it is [made of a] manufactured using a thermoplastic plastic material chosen [from] in the group constituted [by] of polyethylene, polypropylene, polygarbonate[s], methyl polymethacrylate, PVC, polyurethanes, or [of a] using a thermosetting plastic material chosen [from] in the group constituted by methyl polymethacrylate and polyurethanes.
- 6. (Amended) The [P]preform according to [any of claims 1 through 5] claim 1, characterized [in that it has on the] by a surface [guiding means, for example bosses or recesses,

intended to guide the operator during the cutting operation, and/or pre-drilled holes (7) used to contain the adhesive paste for the functional appliance] with guides such as bumps or recesses intended to guide the technician during cutting operations and/or initial holes (7) that are used to hold the fastening hooks of the finished dentofacial appliance.

- 7. (Amended) The [P] preform according to [any of claims 1 through 6] claim 1, characterized [in] by the fact that it is [produced in unrolled] manufactured in a flat, developed shape [form before] prior to being [shaped] given shape by [the operator] a technician.
- 8. (Amended) The [P]preform according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, [allowing the obtainment] yielding, after deformation, [of] a [Bonnet night lingual retainer (N.L.R.)] Bonnet's Nighttime Lingual Envelope or N.L. E.
- 9. (Amended) A [P]process for [producing] the production of a [customized] personalized orthodontic or [orthopedic dentofacial] dento-facial orthopedic [appliance] apparatus, [characterized in that it comprises contains] the following [stages] steps:
- [production of an expansion] comprising creation of a female mold (9, 10) [made]

  <u>based</u> at least [partially from a design] <u>in part on study models</u> [model or models made] <u>created</u>

  by [the] <u>a</u> practitioner from the [impression or impressions taken] <u>casting or castings made</u> from his patient,
- positioning [of] the preform (1) [according to any of claims 1 through 8] of claim

  in the [expansion] female mold,
  - expansion of the preform until it has reached the desired shape,
- [demolding of the appliance obtained, which] ejection from the mold of the obtained apparatus which becomes functional after finishing.



- 10. (Amended) The [P]process according to claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that the expansion [takes place] is performed with heat and [in] that the preform is brought to the [softening point] deformation temperature of its [constituent] constitutive material [before] prior to the expansion stage, [either before or after the positioning stage in the expansion mold].
- 11. (Amended) The P process according to claim 10, characterized [in] by the fact that the [reaching of the] expansion temperature is [produced] attained by the action of [a] radiation or a heat [-exchanging liquid] bearing fluid.
- 12. (Amended) The [P] process according to claim 11, characterized in that the radiation used is of the microwave or ultraviolet or infrared type.
- 13. (Amended) The [P]process according to [any of claims 9 through 12] claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that the expansion is [produced] performed by any appropriate [means for obtaining] method to obtain the expansion of the preform to the desired shape.
- 14. (Amended) The [P]process according to claim 13, characterized [in] by the fact that the expansion is [produced] performed by the action of an expansion fluid or mechanically.
- 15. (Amended) The [P]process according to claim 14, characterized [in] by the fact that the expansion fluid is compressed air or water.
- 16. (Amended) The [P]process according to [any of claims 9 through 15] claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that the expansion [is produced by means] takes place through the intermediary of an [expanding] expansion core (14) placed in the preform (1) and inflated by the expansion fluid.
- 17. (Amended) The [P]process according to claim 16, characterized in that the core [has] is a controlled expansion core (16).

- 18. (Amended) Process according to claim 16 [or 17], characterized [in that the] by an [expanding] expansion core (14,16) [is] made of a material resistant to the expansion temperature, [[for example] such as an elastomer material].].
- 19. (Amended) Process according to [any of claims 9 through 18] claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that the preform is made of thermosetting material and in that the expansion stage is simultaneously or [subsequently] <u>later</u> accompanied by a [stage] <u>step</u> for [polymerizing] <u>polymerization of the thermosetting material.</u>
- 20. (Amended) The [P]process according to [any of claims 9 through 19] claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that it [also comprises, during the expansion, the] further comprises, insertion by duplicate molding of fastening pieces or [complementary] additional pieces during expansion.
- 21. (Amended) The [P]process according to [any of claims 9 through 20] claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that the finishing [stage comprises] step includes at least one of the following actions: [creation] preparation of one or more openings, polishing, anchoring of fastening hooks, [attachment] setting of [complementary] additional pieces, elimination of [the unnecessary] useless parts, reduction of the surface [of] in certain areas.
- 22. (Amended) The [P]process according to [any of claims 9 through 21] claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that it [comprises] includes a [stage] step for anchoring the fastening hooks [at] in movable [anchor] anchoring points.
- 23. (Amended) The [P]process according to [any of claims 9 through 22] claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that the [orthodontic or] dento-facial orthopedic [dentofacial appliance] or orthodontic device obtained by the process [during a previous] in the preceding cycle is used as a preform.

- 24. (Amended) The [P]process according to [any of claims 9 through 23] claim 9, characterized [in] by the fact that the [customized] personalized orthodontic or [orthopedic dentofacial appliance] dento-facial orthopedic apparatus obtained is a [Bonnet night lingual retainer (N.L.R.)] Bonnet's Nighttime Lingual Envelope or N.L.E.
- 25. (Amended) [Expanding] An expansion core[, characterized in that it is used in a] appropriate for implementation of a process according to [any of claims 16 through 24] claim 16[,] and [in that it comprises] containing at least one means [for] of controlling its expansion.
- 26. (Amended) An expansion core [Core] according to claim 25, [characterized in by the fact that the means for] wherein the method of controlling its expansion is chosen from among the following [means] methods, [i.e.] an increase in the thickness of its wall in certain areas and the [insertion into] introduction in its wall of rigid[, for example metal,] reinforcements.
- 27. (Amended) An [E]expansion [device characterized in that it allows the expansion of the preform] mechanism appropriate for the implementation of a process according to [claims 1 through 8 until it has reached] claim 9 and adapted so that the preform reaches the desired shape[, through the] by displacement of mechanical [parts moved] pieces changed by the [operator] technician during the expansion phase.
- 28. (Amended) A [F] fastening hook for an orthodontic or [orthopedic dentofacial appliance produced] dento-facial orthopedic apparatus according to the process described in [claims 9 through 24] claim 9[, characterized in that it comprises a branch called a return branch that] based on a preform made of a thermoplastic plastic material characterized by the fact that it contains a segment called a bent-back segment which remains outside the [appliance after] apparatus at the end of insertion.

- [orthopedic dentofacial appliance] dento-facial orthopedic apparatus [produced] manufactured according to the process described in [claims 9 through 24] claim 9[,] characterized [in that it comprises] by a [device] mechanism for supplying electrical heating energy and [for] stable mechanical positioning of the fastening hook to be anchored.
- 30. (Amended) A [Device] mechanism according to claim 29, characterized [in] by the fact that the [supply of] electrical energy is [provided] supplied [either] by a portable current generator [hand-held] held by the hand of a technician [by the operator] and [comprising] containing two rigid electrical conductors, [or by a gun that mechanically [holding] holds a pair of rigid electrical conductors connected by flexible conductors to a fixed generator].
- 31. (Amended) A [Device] mechanism according to [claim 29 or 30] claim 29, characterized [in] by the fact that the stable mechanical positioning is [performed] done [by] with the ends of [the] electrical conductors[,] which have [the form of a clip or] a clamp shape, adapted to the diameter of the wire or to the shape of the hook to be inserted, for example a fork shape.
- 32. (Amended) A [P]process according to claim 22, characterized [in] by [that the] fastening hooks [are] attached [according to claim 28 by means of an attaching device according to any of claims 29 through 31] using a fastening mechanism.
- 33. (Amended) [Customized] A personalized orthodontic or [orthopedic dentofacial appliance] dento-facial orthopedic apparatus, characterized [in] by the fact that it is [produced] manufactured [from a] based on a preform (1) according to [any of claims 1 through 8] claim 1 [by means of a process according to any of claims 9 through 24 and 32].

(Amended) A personalized [O]orthodontic or [orthopedic dentofacial appliance] 34. dento-facial orthopedic apparatus according to claim 33, characterized [in that it constitutes] by a [Bonnet night lingual retainer (N.L.R.)] Bonnet's Nighttime Lingual Envelope or N.L.E.

The process according to claim 18, wherein the material registrant to expansion temperature is an elastomer. --

A mechanismaccording to claim 29, characterized by the fact that the electrical energy is supplied by a gun that mechanically holds a pair of rigid electrical conductors connected by flexible conductors to a fixed generator. --

## REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-34 are amended to better define the subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention and/or to delete multiple dependency and claims 35 and 36 are added to conform with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice and procedure.

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